"Cook found the aborigines quite naked, adding, 'The females wore a kangaroo skin tied over the shoulders and round the waist. But its chief use seemed to be to support their children when carried on their backs, they being in all other respects as naked as the men.' This surmise of Cook is supported by Péron, who says he met with 'two female aborigines, who were absolutely naked, except that the younger one had on a kangaroo skin in which she carried her little girl' (p. 223). Bligh (p. 51), Marion du Fresne (p. 28), Prinsep (p. 79), and Mortimer (p. 19), say the natives were entirely naked; the latter qualifying his remark by excepting some of the women who had a kind of cloak or bag thrown over their shoulders. A certain minimum amount of clothing appears to have been used at times. Flinders recorded seeing 'two natives, a man and a woman, who had something wrapped round them which resembled cloaks of skin' (p. 155). Bass mentions that 'he saw two females, who had a short covering, hanging loose from their shoulders' (Collins, p. 187); while Laplace also says: 'For defending themselves against the cold and wet, they have only a cloak, made of skin, sewn together with threads of bark. This coarse and disgusting clothing hardly covers the back' (III. p. 201). Widowson observes, that 'their only covering is a few kangaroo skins, rudely stitched, and thrown over the shoulders;' [142] and he adds, that 'more frequently they appear in a state of nudity' (p. 187); while Lloyd tells us (p. 48) that 'the thick, woolly-haired skins

of the large opossum, and the skin of the kangaroo, formed the only description of garment patronized by the aborigines.'"

1: Roth--142 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 291

"Other writers attribute the little clothing they wore to the absolute necessity of protecting themselves against the cold. Leigh's evidence is to the fact that, 'In the winter, the men dress themselves in the dried skins of the kangaroo. The females are clothed in the same kind of garment, with the addition of ruffles, made also of the skin, and placed in front of the garment. The dress is fastened on by means of a string over the shoulders and round the waist. In the summer season their clothing is useless, and therefore cast off till winter returns' (III. p. 243). Jeffreys confirms this statement (pp. 125-126) thus: 'During the winter season the natives dress themselves in kangaroo skins, and the females are always partially clad in a robe of the same kind, cut and decorated with lesser pieces in front, the whole fastened over the shoulders with a sort of string, and round the waist with a similar band.' Milligan says: 'They wore no clothing whatever, except only in case of illness, when a kangaroo skin was put on, with the fur inwards, laced together in a way to fit the body' (Beacon, p. 25). With regard to the women, this writer tells us 'they went about usually quite bald, and devoid of covering.... They wore a strip of the skin of the wallaby or kangaroo under the knee or around the wrist or ankle' (ibid. pp. 28-29)."

1: Roth--142-143 (No date)1890 Tasmanians
116, 291

"La Billardière describes most of the savages seen by him and his ship's company as being absolutely naked; but on one occasion he met with some who had the skin of a kangaroo wrapped about their shoulders (I. p. 222). In another place he says: 'Some of our men came to a large fire, around which eight savages, each of whom had a kangaroo skin wrapped round his shoulders, sat warming themselves.... An old woman... had the skin of a kangaroo wrapped about her shoulders; she had likewise another of these skins bound round her waist in the form of an apron'(I. pp. 234-235). At a subsequent interview with a party of the natives, he describes their dress [?] as follows: 'The women were for the most part as entirely naked as the men. Some of them only had the shoulders and part of the back covered with a kangaroo skin, worn with the hair next the body; and among these we noticed two, each of whom had an infant at the breast. The sole garment of one was a strip of kangaroo's skin, about two [143] inches broad, which was wrapped six or seven times round the waist; another had a collar of skin round the neck, and some had a slender cord bound sveral times round the head' (II. pp. 34-35)."

1: Roth--143 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 291

"Péron says: 'The absence of clothing did not seem to cause the women any embarassment even in the presence of strangers,' and the same author mentions that 'another young girl, called Ourê-Ourê, was, like her parents, perfectly naked, and did not seem in the least to suspect that there could be possibly anything immodest or indecent in this absolute nudity' (p. 227). In describing another meeting with twenty female aborigines, his words are: 'With the exception of kangaroo skins, which some of them wore on their shoulders, all these women were perfectly naked; but without appearing to regard their nakedness in the least, they so varied their attitudes and postures that it would be difficult to form a just idea of the bizarreness and picturesqueness which this meeting afforded us' (p. 252). A third party of savages whom Péron met with was also perfectly naked. One alone, older than the rest, had a kangaroo skin on his shoulders (pp. 279-280). Rossel says: 'Some of the sailors saw some savages, ...among whom was a woman, who, ...a remarkable circumstance, had the throat and the private parts covered.' Like the others, he suspected the severity of the season, rather than decency, caused the one seen to take this precaution (I. pp. 99-100). Rossel also mentions (I. p. 60) the finding in a hut of a piece of dried Alga marina, which he thought was designed to cover the natural parts, but we know this alga was used as a drinking vessel. From Mr. R. Thirkell we learn that 'the natives had merely a piece of kangaroo skin round their loins, or rather hanging in front, with no other covering,' this being the only reference we have to a loincloth."

1: Roth--143 [3] (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 291

"As regards any coverings for the feet, we have only West's testimony (p. 85): 'The tribes...from South Cape to Cape Grim...wore mocassins on travel.'"

1: Roth--143-144 (No date) 1890 Tasmanians
116, 177, 291

"The Tasmanians, like many other savage races, never took kindly to the civilized dress of Europeans. When the English first established a colony in Van Diemen's Land, many efforts were made to induce them to make use of clothing as a matter of decency, but they were almost all unsuccessful. Widowson [144] tells us, they never avail themselves of the purposes for which apparel is given them (p. 188); while Breton relates: 'They show no small aversion to clothing their sable-like bodies in a Christian-like manner, and availed themselves, when taken, of the earliest opportunity to escape, at the same time throwing away their clothes the moment they get into the bush' (p. 352)."